

**Representation in the census alerts local and national officials to the needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.**

# **Working Along With Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers**

## **A Guide for Community-Based Organizations and Advocates for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers**

### **Now Is the Time for You to Make a Difference.**

The very nature of migrant and seasonal farm work often creates special needs, including health, job safety, job training, education, legal services and housing. If the workers have children, they may require assistance from school lunch programs or other special education programs. Representation in the census alerts local and national officials to the needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Every 10 years, the Census Bureau must conduct a complete accounting of every person in the United States, no matter where they live or what language they speak. Accurate information is essential because the census numbers influence planning activities and help determine the distribution of funds for many programs. The Census Bureau is committed to working closely with community-based organizations to assure that migrant and seasonal farmworkers who usually reside in the U.S. are included in Census 2000. This fact sheet explains what organizations and migrant and seasonal farmworkers should know about Census 2000.

### **Partners Are the Key to Census 2000 Efforts to Include Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers.**

Census 2000 won't be complete without migrant and seasonal farmworkers but frequent moves, temporary and hidden housing, overcrowded dwellings, cultural differences and language barriers may sometimes hamper our efforts. Therefore, the Census Bureau will seek the help of organizations that know and work with migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including state, local and tribal governments, community-based organizations and advocacy groups. Partnerships with school-based migrant education programs, health clinics, migrant Head Start programs, housing organizations, legal service agencies and job training programs can contribute essential information and resources to this important effort. Community-based organizations can also play a vital role by spreading word-of-mouth information about the confidentiality of the census and why it is important for migrant and seasonal farmworkers to participate.



Call  
**1-888-325-7733**  
for more  
information about  
Census 2000 jobs.

For additional information  
about Census 2000, visit  
the Census Bureau's  
Internet site at  
<http://www.census.gov>  
or call one of our  
Regional Census Centers  
across the country:

Atlanta 404-331-0573  
Boston 617-424-4977  
Charlotte 704-344-6624  
Chicago 312-353-9759  
Dallas 214-655-3060  
Denver 303-231-5029  
Detroit 248-967-9524  
Kansas City 816-801-2020  
Los Angeles 818-904-6522  
New York City 212-620-7702  
or 212-620-7703  
Philadelphia 215-597-8312  
Seattle 206-553-5882

## **Knowing the Areas Where Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Live and Work Is Essential.**

The Census Bureau will ask local organizations to locate areas where migrant and seasonal farmworkers stay so that we'll be sure to include them in the census. In addition to conventional housing, these places include:

- Unregistered labor camps or on-farm employee housing, barrack-style housing, migrant centers, gathering places and hotels and motels used by farmworkers.
- Vehicles parked in clusters near orchards and other worker sites, or areas containing travel trailers and camper shells.
- Areas where single-unit dwellings have been converted to multiple-unit dwellings.
- Areas with hidden living quarters behind or above commercial buildings or residential units, or in garages, outbuildings and alleys.
- Areas containing living quarters on unnamed public and private roads.
- Areas containing commercial buildings, condemned buildings, sheds, barns and buildings open to the elements where migrant and seasonal farmworkers stay.

## **Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Will Have Many Opportunities to Take Part in Census 2000.**

- Census takers will distribute questionnaires in areas where migrant and seasonal farmworkers live and work.
- Questionnaires will be available to pick up in public places, chosen by members of the local community. To ensure that everyone is included, we'll make additional forms available in Spanish and other languages.
- Questionnaire Assistance Centers will be available for anyone who needs help filling out the census form. The Census Bureau needs your help to identify the best sites for Questionnaire Assistance Centers in migrant and seasonal farmworker areas. And we're looking for bilingual workers to staff these facilities.
- A toll-free telephone number with a multilingual staff will help people complete their questionnaires.

## **Answering the Census Is Important, Easy and Safe.**

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share anyone's answers with others, including employers, welfare agencies, health and housing inspectors, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.

## **The Census Bureau Encourages Qualified People, Including Service Providers and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, to Help Us Take Census 2000.**

Hiring from the community is important for creating a culturally diverse work force. The Census Bureau is actively seeking bilingual recruits to staff facilities and conduct the census. Call **1-888-325-7733** for more information about Census 2000 jobs.